ABSTRACT

An Optical Tapped Delay Line (OTDL) is combined with other known optical apparatuses to provide an add-drop multiplexer for a wavelength division multiplexing fiber optic network. Each output beam of the OTDL is spatially distinguishable in free space. This wavelength accessibility enables selection of one or more of the optical beams for adding or dropping. The system can be a fixed or tunable single channel add/drop system, a fixed or tunable multi-channel add/drop system, or a fully programmable add/drop system.